

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Kindly amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, and 13 as follows, wherein no new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of selecting content by way of a multi-source interactive programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a plurality of characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

5 wherein the plurality of characterizing descriptors comprises at least two elements selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, an indication of source, a network call sign for a station, a broadcast starting time, a broadcast stopping time, a description of the content, information pertaining to the content, an indication of a bearer medium, a sample of the content, a promotional sample of the content, a previously prepared
10 trailer, and a preview of the content, and

wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a bearer medium, a primary transmission service provider, and a data format;

15 providing at least one smart filter for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing an enhanced suggestion engine for making at least one recommendation based on at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a content nature uniqueness, a viewer identification, and a keyword, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing
20 each at least one smart filter being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the at least one smart filter simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media, thereby providing a coordinated joint display comprising a plurality of integrated results, the plurality of integrated results comprising an aggregate pool of candidate viewing choices being reducible on a basis of

filter selection criteria from at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a plurality of different sources and a plurality of different data formats;

providing at least one selection criterion;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

supporting a programming guide navigation;

reviewing and browsing the information regarding the at least one portion of the resultant selection;

if selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, providing a selection response; and

if not selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, returning to the supporting step.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a user database, wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

8. (currently amended) An interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus, comprising:

a data processing unit comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a fixed-purpose dedicated platform, a partially-programmable platform, a cable, and a satellite set-top box;

a plurality of characterizing descriptors, each of which individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

wherein the plurality of characterizing descriptors comprises at least two elements selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, an indication of source, a network call sign for a station, a broadcast starting time, a broadcast stopping time, a description of the content, information pertaining to the content, an indication of a bearer

medium, a sample of the content, a promotional sample of the content, a previously prepared trailer, and a preview of the content, and

wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from
15 a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a bearer medium, a primary transmission service provider, a data format, and at least one selection criterion;

at least one smart filter for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete
selectable items of data, the at least one smart filter comprising an enhanced suggestion engine
20 for making at least one recommendation based on at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a content nature uniqueness, a viewer identification, and a keyword, each at least one smart filter being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the at least one smart filter simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media, whereby a coordinated joint display, comprising a plurality of integrated results, is provided, the plurality of
25 integrated results comprising an aggregate pool of candidate viewing choices being reducible on a basis of filter selection criteria from at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a plurality of different sources and a plurality of different data formats; and

a control circuitry adapted to:

apply the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of
30 the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

display programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a
35 portion of the resultant selection; and

a support programming guide navigation,

wherein the data processing unit utilizes the plurality of characterizing descriptors, the plurality of cascading filters, the control circuitry, and the support programming guide navigation.

9. (previously presented) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection.

10. (previously presented) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide.

11. (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword.

12. (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

13. (currently amended) A method of providing an interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a plurality of characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs,

wherein the plurality of characterizing descriptors comprises at least two elements selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, an indication of source, a network call sign for a station, a broadcast starting time, a broadcast stopping time, a description of the content, information pertaining to the content, an indication of a bearer medium, a sample of the content, a promotional sample of the content, a previously prepared trailer, and a preview of the content, and

wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs with respect to at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a bearer medium, a primary transmission service provider, and a data format;

providing at least one smart filter for facilitating determination of a particular one of the

discrete selectable items of data, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing an enhanced suggestion engine for making at least one recommendation based on at least one parameter selected from a group consisting essentially of a content nature uniqueness, a viewer identification, and a keyword, the at least one smart filter providing step comprising providing
20 each at least one smart filter being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the at least one smart filter simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media, thereby providing a coordinated joint display comprising a plurality of integrated results, the plurality of integrated results comprising an aggregate pool of candidate viewing choices being reducible on a basis of filter selection criteria from at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a
25 plurality of different sources and a plurality of different data formats;

providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality
30 of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection; and

providing a support programming guide navigation.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the

5 first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the
5 first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of
5 audio/visual content;

providing a user database, wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided; and

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete
10 selectable items of audio/visual content,

wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of
15 discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

20 supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing

descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying
25 programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

19. (previously presented) The interactive programming guide of claim 8,

wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable
5 items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection,

wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide,

wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword, and

wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 13,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual
5 further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items
10 of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.